Conducting CBPR: Implementing Research Plans

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Outline

- Provide overview of Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR)

- Discuss partnership roles in CBPR

- Discuss 3 case studies

- Recommendations for conducting CBPR

Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR)

"A collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community & has the aim of combining knowledge with action & achieving social change..."

~ W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Health Scholars Program

Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR)

- Combines <u>research methods</u> & <u>community capacity-building strategies</u> to bridge gap between knowledge & translation of this research into interventions/policies

- Working *<u>with</u>* rather than *<u>in</u>* communities,

CBPR & Partnerships

- CBPR involves:
  - Co-learning and reciprocal transfer of expertise
  - Shared decision-making power
  - Mutual ownership of the processes

Partners Roles & Responsibilities

- Partners may vary in their level of participation

- Partner knowledge and skills

- Partnership participate in selecting research objectives and activities

Characteristics of Effective Partners
Organizational Partners

- Engaged, competent researchers & research staff

- Support & involvement from leaders at all levels

- Representative partners ideally hold positions of authority and/or leadership within their organizations

Partnership "Models"

- **Advisory Board**
  - Key informants from community & other agencies
  - Advise researchers
  - Limited decision-making power

Partnership "Models"

- **Steering Committee**
  - Key informants from community & other agencies
  - Guide the research process
  - Have decision-making power
  - Often "gatekeepers" of community

Partnership "Models"

- **Organizational Control**
  - Community organization require application for partnership requests/projects

- **Individual Freedom**
  - Individual researchers directly approach community to initiate projects

Characteristics of Effective Partners
Organizational Partners

- Committed – to create & maintain a partnership

- Organizational mission encourages, supports and/or understands & recognizes the value of CBPR

- Trusted history of engagement in the community

- Staff and/or volunteer capacity to participate

Evolution of
a Participatory Partnership

pre-partnership

Getting to know
each other

partnership

Working to achieve
mutually valued objectives

Partnership

Developing & implementing
research/programs together

Mullinix BB, 2000

CBPR in Detroit, Michigan

- Healthy Connections Project
- Part of Village Worker Partnership
  - 12-years relationship
- Partners
  - Community-based organizations
  - Health service providers
  - Academic institutions
- Easy entry to community and ease of delivering services

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Mullinix BB, 2000

CBPR in Champaign, Illinois

- Grass-roots organization
  - Community women volunteers
- Monthly Saturday meetings
- Community Building & Organizing
- Afya Project

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CBPR in Centralia, Illinois

- Several organizations in community
  - Recreation Center
  - UI Extension
  - Health service provider
  - Funeral Home
  - Youth Center
  - African American church
- Survey community at local festival
- Develop programs within the city

Recommendations for Building Partner Relationships

- **<u>Very</u> time consuming - for all partners**
  - Build wisely and slowly
- **Trust among partners can be fragile**
  - Place all issues on the table (expectations, limitations), be transparent
- **Include partners in all 'day-to-day' decision making**
  - Base on mutual decision

Recommendations for Building Partner Relationships

- **Who to include in partnership – to ensure representation?**
  - Base on community and issues
  - Grass-root vs. Community-based organizations
- **Dissemination of findings in timely, useful way**
  - White paper, local paper, community forum, & academic venues